

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A cyclonic separating apparatus for separating solid material from a fluid, comprising a separating chamber, an inlet communicating with the separating chamber for carrying the fluid with solid matter entrained therein to the separating chamber, and an outlet for carrying the fluid away from the separating chamber after the solid material has been separated therefrom, the outlet being formed by a conduit communicating with an interior portion of the separating chamber and having a longitudinal axis,

wherein a plurality of grooves are formed in an interior surface of the conduit and extend in the same direction as the longitudinal axis.

2. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the grooves extend substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

3. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the grooves extend along the conduit for at least one quarter of the length thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the grooves extend along the conduit for at least half of the length thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the grooves extend along substantially the entire length of the conduit.

6. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein each groove is identical to the other grooves.

7. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein each groove is triangular in shape.

8. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 5, wherein each groove is rectangular in shape.

9. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the depth of each groove is less than the breadth of each groove.

10. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein adjacent grooves are spaced apart from one another by portions of the interior surface of the conduit.

11. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the breadth of each groove is greater than the breadth of either of the portions of the interior surface adjacent the said groove.

12. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the breadth of each groove is substantially the same as the breadth of each portion of the interior surface adjacent the said groove.

13. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the portions of the interior surface of the conduit lie on a cylindrical surface.

14. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein the grooves are equiangularly spaced about the longitudinal axis.

15. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein at least four grooves are provided.

16. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least eight grooves are provided.

17. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein at least twelve grooves are provided.

18. (Currently Amended) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein the upstream end of the conduit outlet is radially on the outer surface thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 for separating solid material from a fluid, comprising a separating chamber, an inlet communicating with the separating chamber for carrying the fluid with solid matter entrained

therein to the separating chamber, and an outlet for carrying the fluid away from the separating chamber after the solid material has been separated therefrom, the outlet being formed by a conduit communicating with an interior portion of the separating chamber and having a longitudinal axis,

wherein a plurality of grooves are formed in an interior surface of the conduit and extend in the same direction as the longitudinal axis, and

wherein at least one inwardly projecting protrusion is provided adjacent at least one of the grooves.

20. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein inwardly projecting protrusions are provided on both sides of the respective groove or grooves.

21. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the inwardly projecting protrusions extend along the whole of the length of the respective groove or grooves.

22. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein each groove has projections provided on both sides thereof.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A cyclonic vacuum cleaner comprising the cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

25. (Previously Presented) The cyclonic vacuum cleaner of claim 24, wherein the grooves are identical grooves that are triangular in shape and extend substantially the entire length of the conduit.

26. (New) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the grooves extend substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

27. (New) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the grooves extend along the conduit for at least one quarter of the length thereof.

28. (New) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the grooves extend along the conduit for at least half of the length thereof.

29. (New) The cyclonic separating apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the grooves extend along substantially the entire length of the conduit.